

EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council



EPSRC-JSPS Core-to-Core Collaboration in Spintronics and Advanced Materials

EPSRC are seeking Expressions of Interest for participation in the JSPS [Core-to-Core scheme](#) in the area of spintronics and advanced materials. The JSPS Core-to-Core scheme is designed to create world-class research hubs in fields considered to be cutting-edge and internationally important in Japan. These hubs are built and operated through sustainable collaborative relations established among research/education institutions in Japan and around the world.

Funds are available up to five years for joint research projects, seminars, and researcher exchanges and collaborations are expected to continue operation as a research hub after funding has ended.

Context

International research collaboration and cooperation is a route to maintain the high quality of research output, tackle large scale global research challenges and share expertise. Over the past few years targeted investments by EPSRC have helped facilitate growing collaboration between Japanese and UK based researchers. In the areas of Spintronics and Advanced Materials this collaboration is particularly strong.

EPSRC sees the Core-to-Core scheme as an opportunity to build on previous investment in joint initiatives between Japan and the UK and build on established collaborations between key groups as well as develop new ones contributing to the excellence of the research base in Spintronics and Advanced Materials.

Examples of potential areas of collaboration across condensed matter physics and materials areas include organic spintronics, multiferroics, plasmonics, metamaterials and graphene. These areas link to two of the eight great technology areas, Big Data and Energy-Efficient Computing and Advanced Materials and complement recent EPSRC investments in these areas.

JSPS Core-to-Core Scheme

The JSPS Core-to-Core scheme provides up to ¥20 Million (currently equivalent to c. £120k) per year for up to five years to Japanese groups with the equivalent contribution from two or more partner countries. The UK contribution does not include indirect and estates costs but does include university contributions. There is an emphasis on travel and researcher exchange with approximately half of the funds expected to be spent on travel.

EPSRC will contribute up to £2M for the call, which will fund approximately two collaborations depending on success in peer review.

Eligibility

EPSRC will support applications from groups or consortia with >£2M EPSRC or equivalent peer-reviewed funding in the Spintronics and Advanced Materials areas.

The expression of interest must contain the following

- A short description of the proposed collaboration explaining where the research fits into EPSRC's spintronics and advanced materials research areas. The proposed research must sit within the Physical Sciences remit of EPSRC.
- The proposed investigator team including overseas collaborators.
- Detail of relevant peer-reviewed funding for the UK-based investigators from EPSRC and other sources.

Assessment

Expressions of interest will be assessed by an EPSRC panel to check the eligibility criteria have been met and then applicants contacted shortly afterwards. Eligible applicants will be invited to coordinate their submission to JSPS in early October 2014 and further instructions provided.

Full submissions to JSPS must be led by the relevant Japanese partner and the peer-review assessment will be conducted by JSPS.

How to Apply

Eligible groups must submit a two-page expression of interest to the [Physical Sciences Inbox](#) by **16.00 on 18th July**.

Queries on the expressions of interest should be sent to [Robert Felstead](#) at EPSRC.

Queries on the Core-to-Core scheme should be sent directly to [Polly Watson](#) at JSPS London.